



Orienteering Merit Badge

Brief Description

The Orienteering Merit Badge was created in 1974 by the Boy Scouts of America. The ranger conducting this program will teach scouts the importance of learning to read a compass and map.

Outcomes of the Program

1. The scouts will learn first aid skills and safety considerations necessary for participation in outdoor activities such as orienteering.
2. The scouts will learn how the prehistoric people traveled to Russell Cave.
3. The scouts will learn how the Spanish Explorers traveled across the ocean and into present day Alabama.
4. The scouts will learn the technological advancements of way finding that brings us to present day.
5. The scouts will learn how to read a map and compass.

Steve Henning (July 20, 1999). "[Merit Badges, Past and Present](http://home.earthlink.net/~scouters/mb.html)". *Henning's Scouters' Pages*. <http://home.earthlink.net/~scouters/mb.html>. Retrieved 2007-06-06.



Prior to the invention of the compass, prehistoric people traveled by the following resources: the sky, streams, and trees. The compass allowed the Europeans to explore different areas in search for trade routes for particular trade goods, such as gold, silver, and spices. Today most people rely on a cell phone, handheld GPS, or a navigational system to get them to their destination. However, the compass still helps foresters, campers, canoeists, hikers, mountain bikers, rescue teams, hunters and cavers.

(Information from Silva "Read This or Get Lost" pamphlet.)